

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A magnetic article having a desired shape, comprising:

a magnetic fabric, wherein said magnetic fabric is further comprised of a plurality of

5 magnetic fibers; and

a plurality of stitches holding said magnetic fabric in the desired shape of the magnetic article.

2. A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic fibers are formed from slit film fibers suitable for textile processing.

3. A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic fibers are sheath-core fibers and each of said sheath-core fibers further comprises a magnetic core fiber and a textile sheath surrounding said magnetic core fiber.

4. A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic fibers are composite fibers and each of said composite fibers further comprises magnetic particles encapsulated by a polymer.

5. A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic article has an aesthetically pleasing drape and a tactile handle.

6. A magnetic article according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of magnetic fibers are woven into said fabric in a pattern.

20 7. A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a layer of magnetic material coated onto said magnetic fabric.

8. A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a layer of magnetic material printed onto said magnetic fabric.

9. A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising incorporation of magnetic material into said magnetic fabric through textile finishing techniques.

10. A magnetic article according to claim 1, further comprising a solid magnet attached to the magnetic fabric.

11. A sheath-core fiber for magnetic fabrics, comprising:

a magnetic core fiber; and

a textile sheath surrounding said magnetic core fiber.

12. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said magnetic core fiber further comprises magnetic particles encapsulated by a polymer.

13. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said magnetic core fiber further comprises magnetic particles combined with a natural fiber.

14. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said textile sheath is a polymer.

15. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said textile sheath is natural fiber.

16. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said textile sheath is combined with magnetic particles.

17. A sheath-core fiber according to claim 11, wherein said textile sheath is substantially free of magnetic particles.

18. A method for using a magnetic article for therapeutic purposes, comprising the steps

of:

forming a magnetic fabric from a plurality of magnetic fibers; and

maintaining said magnetic fabric in close proximity to a body of a user.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein said forming step further comprises

weaving the plurality of magnetic fibers.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein said forming step further comprises knitting the plurality of magnetic fibers.

21. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of cutting said
5 magnetic fabric into a plurality of shapes that form at least a part of a desired shape.

22. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of sewing said magnetic fabric to hold a desired shape for the magnetic article.

23. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of wearing said magnetic article.

24. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of laying on said
10 magnetic article.

25. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of coating said magnetic fabric with a layer of magnetic material.

26. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of printing a layer of
15 magnetic material onto said magnetic fabric.

27. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of finishing said magnetic fabric with an integral layer of magnetic material.

28. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of attaching a solid magnet to said magnetic fabric.

20 29. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of sewing a magnetic fabric layer to said magnetic fabric.